

AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (canceled)
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29. (Currently amended) An apparatus for playing a word based lottery game, comprising:

a game input unit for receiving [[an]] a random alphabetical play phrase from a user;

a wager input device for receiving a wager from the user; and

a controller operatively coupled to the game input unit and the wager input device, the controller being capable of generating a random character string and assigning a prize value to the alphabetical play phrase, the controller also determining a payout value based upon, at least, the correlation among the character string, the alphabetical play phrase, the prize value, and the wager.

30. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 29, wherein the alphabetical play phrase is received through a word based lottery play slip.

31. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 30, the word based lottery play slip further comprising:

a first section, the first section containing the alphabetical play phrase; and

a selection section, the selection section allowing the alphabetical play phrase to be coded.

32. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 29, wherein the alphabetical play phrase is manually input by the user.

33. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 29, wherein the alphabetical play phrase is selected by the user from a menu of phrases.

34. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 29 further comprising a ticket printer capable of generating a word based lottery ticket.

35. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 34, the word based lottery ticket further comprising:

a ~~pre-printed~~ section, ~~the pre-printed section~~ listing a ~~pre-printed~~ the alphabetical play phrase; and
a covered section, the covered section including the random character string.

36. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 35, the ~~pre-printed~~ the alphabetical play phrase being the same as the alphabetical play phrase.

37. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 35, wherein the covered section can be removed to reveal the random character string.

38. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 35, the ~~pre-printed~~ the alphabetical play phrase being comprised of a plurality of words and a prize is associated with each word in the ~~pre-printed~~ the alphabetical play phrase.

39. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 38, wherein the prize associated with each word may be changed by the user.

40. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 35, wherein if the random character string matches a word in the ~~pre-printed~~ the alphabetical play phrase, the user wins a prize associated with the word.

41. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 35, wherein if the random character string contains all characters of a word in the ~~pre-printed~~ the alphabetical play phrase, the user wins a prize associated with the word.

42. (Currently amended) A method for playing a word based lottery game, comprising the steps of:
receiving an alphabetical play phrase from a user, the alphabetical play phrase having a plurality of words;
receiving a wager from the user; generating a random character string;

determining a correlation among the alphabetical play phrase, the random character string, and the wager; and
determining a payout value based upon, at least, the correlation.

43. (Previously presented) The method of claim 42, wherein the step of receiving the alphabetical play phrase further comprises the step of reading the alphabetical play phrase from a word based lottery play slip.

44. (Previously presented) The method of claim 42, wherein the step of receiving the alphabetical play phrase further comprises the step of receiving digits keyed in manually by the user.

45. (Previously presented) The method of claim 42, wherein the step of receiving the alphabetical play phrase further comprises the steps of:
presenting a menu of phrases to the user; and
receiving a selection from the user.

46. (Currently amended) The method of claim 42, further comprising the step of printing a word based lottery ticket, the word based lottery ticket comprising:
a section listing the alphabetical play phrase, ~~the play phrase having a plurality of words;~~ and
a covered section, the covered section including the random character string.

47. (Currently amended) The method of claim 46, further comprising the step of associating a prize with each word in the alphabetical play phrase.

48. (Previously presented) The method of claim 47, further comprising the step of modifying the prize associated with each word.

49. (Currently amended) The method of claim 46, further comprising the steps of:

determining a match between the random character string and the plurality of words in the alphabetical play phrase; and
awarding a prize based on the match to the user.

50. (Previously presented) A lottery ticket, comprising:
a pre-printed section, the pre-printed section listing a pre-printed word-based play phrase comprised of a plurality of words; and
a random character string having a cover thereover, the cover being selectively removable to reveal the random character string.

51. (Previously presented) The lottery ticket of claim 50, the pre-printed play phrase comprised of a plurality of words whereby a prize is associated with each word in the pre-printed phrase.

52. (Previously presented) The lottery ticket of claim 51, wherein the random character string selectively matches a word in the pre-printed play phrase whereby upon such matching, a prize associated with the word is won.

53. (Previously presented) The lottery ticket of claim 51, wherein the random character string selectively containing all characters of a word in the pre-printed play phrase whereby a prize associated with the word is won.